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# Republican Policy Committee

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News item: *"The White House [Monday, June 26] previewed three campaign ads . . . designed to show that President Clinton is tough on crime. The television ads . . . will cost \$2.6 million and will be carried in 18 to 20 markets over the next few weeks."*

## PRESIDENT CLINTON'S REAL RECORD ON CRIME

by John A. Barnes

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President Clinton's high-profile recent demand for an anti-terrorism bill and his support last year for a crime bill have no doubt beefed up his image as "tough on crime."

But the President's "tough on crime" posturing has not been backed up by money for federal law enforcement since he took office. In his priorities for funding, he repeatedly has sought to withdraw resources from the sharp end of federal law enforcement — the FBI, the DEA, U.S. attorneys' offices — while transferring funds to such areas as antitrust, child abuse, and civil rights.

For instance, 320 new FBI agents were trained in 1992 at the FBI's academy, the last full year of the Bush administration. But not a single new agent graduated from the academy in 1993. And Clinton asked for no new funding for new agents in his fiscal 1995 budget either, the first one for which he had a full year to prepare. Nevertheless, Congress did approve about 600 new agents for this year.

In that same fiscal 1995 budget, the President forecast dropping the number of full-time equivalent FBI positions by 854, from 21,568 in 1993 to 20,714 by 1995, including a reduction of 436 special agents. The 1994 number was 21,034.

The number of agents receiving training at the FBI Academy has fallen sharply, from 14,741 in 1992 to 2,677 in 1994. The number of state and local police officers receiving training at the academy has likewise seen a sharp drop, from 7,395 in 1992 to 3,710 in 1994.

Similar cuts have been felt keenly at the DEA: In 1992, 347 new DEA special agents underwent training. Like the FBI, that number fell to zero in 1993. The Clinton administration's fiscal 1995 budget forecast training no new DEA agents in 1994 and 1995.

The number of special agents fell by 123 between 1992 and 1994 and total DEA personnel was slated under the Clinton budget to fall from 6,149 in 1993 to 5,388 in 1995.

DEA arrests fell from 7,878 in the last full year under Bush to 5,279 in 1994. Drug-related arrests made in cooperation with overseas law enforcement fell from 1,856 in 1992 to 1,522 in 1994. Clandestine drug labs seized by specially trained DEA teams fell from 335 in 1992 to 272 in 1994. Forensic chemists trained by the DEA fell from 20 in 1992 to zero in 1994. New DEA intelligence specialists, 140 of whom were trained in 1992, dropped to exactly zero in 1994.

Not surprisingly, given this withdrawal of resources, narcotics prosecutions have fallen 25 percent in just those two years, from 6,936 to 5,177.

And all this is taking place at a time when the University of Michigan's 1994 High School Drug Survey shows that drug use among adolescents has climbed in the last two years. Marijuana use has doubled among eighth-graders, jumped two-thirds among 10th graders, and one-third among 12th graders.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network of the National Institutes of Health has reported that emergency room admissions for cocaine-related emergencies rose 8 percent in 1993 and those for heroin are up 31 percent.

Despite all the publicity given the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for its ill-fated raids in Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, the number of federal prosecutions for firearms-related violations has also fallen consistently under President Clinton. There were 3,917 such prosecutions in 1992, a number that fell to 3,636 in 1993 and then to 3,113 in 1994, a 20.5 percent fall.

But it hasn't been all cutting at the Clinton Justice Department. Some programs have received large increases in funding and clearly have the President's approval.

In the fiscal 1995 budget, the president asked to increase the net outlays of the Department of Justice's Anti-Trust Division from \$40.2 million to \$50.8 million, a better than 20 percent increase. The actual outlays turned out to be less than the requested figure, \$47.3 million. The Civil Rights Division has received a 20 percent increase in funding under President Clinton.

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[Note: Mr. Barnes's column appeared in the June 19, 1995 edition of *Investor's Business Daily*. It has been shortened by about half, and the portion that appears here has been edited. The news item at the top of the paper is from the *Washington Post* of June 27, 1995.]